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Daddy

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Daddy

Megan Sichler

You are only five years old.
He scrapes his eyes over your innocent figure,
Gives a disapproving grunt.
You torture yourself. "What can I do to make
him love me?"
You ask for a glove and ball to try to win his
affection.
You practice until your arms and heart spasm
with the effort.
"Why don't you love me?"

You are only sixteen years old.
You struggle to grasp the tendril of approval.
It writhes in your grasp and turns to ash.
You never had a chance.
You keep on hitting, running, winning.
He comes and goes with only judgment to
deliver.
"Why don't you love me?"

You are only thirty years old.
You've finally put down the bat and ball.
You buy *Easy-Bake* ovens and *Sing-Along*
songs.
He calls.
Another chance to hit the ball, miss the ball.
You run.
You lose.
"Why don't you love me?"